

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Bob Lake, on April 10, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Jon Sonju, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Edward Hilbert (R)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 436, 3/31/2007; SB 550,
3/31/2007; SB 553, 3/28/2007

Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON SB 550

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:50 Sen. Rick Laible (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on SB 550, Revise local government study commission laws and tax provisions.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:08:39 Fred Thomas, (former Senator), Stevensville resident

00:15:45 Scott Seilstad, Chair, Fergus County Study Commission

EXHIBIT (tah75a01)

00:21:01 Tim Ravndal, representing Broadwater County

00:25:48 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

00:33:13 Gordon Morris, representing Lewis & Clark County

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:38:14 Rep. Lambert

00:38:54 Sen. Laible

00:41:04 Rep. Erickson

EXHIBIT (tah75a02)

00:42:47 Sen. Laible

00:44:31 Harold Blattie

00:45:28 Rep. Erickson

00:49:13 Sen. Laible

00:51:32 Rep. Butcher

00:52:51 Fred Thomas

00:57:13 Rep. Cohenour

00:57:52 Gordon Morris

00:59:11 Rep. Jopek

00:59:46 Gordon Morris

01:01:40 Rep. Jopek

Closing by Sponsor:

01:02:45 Sen. Rick Laible

HEARING ON SB 553

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:06:26 Sen. Jerry Black (R), SD 14, opened the hearing on SB 553, Revise incentives for certain physicians.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:14:11 Dick Brown, Senior Vice President, Montana Hospital Association

[EXHIBIT\(tah75a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah75a04\)](#)

01:17:48 Linda Hyman, Professor, Montana State University

[EXHIBIT\(tah75a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah75a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah75a07\)](#)

01:24:15 Mike Walsh, CEO, Powell County Medical Center, Deer Lodge

01:26:46 Dr. Derek Williams, Family Practice Physician, Deer Lodge

01:28:59 Emily Lipp Sirota, speaking for Governor's Office of Economic Development

01:30:24 Cathy Conover, representing Montana State University

01:31:08 Jani McCall, representing Billings Clinic

01:31:58 Beda Lovitt, representing Montana Medical Association and Montana Psychiatric Association

01:32:45 Marge Levine, representing Montana Primary Care Association

01:34:20 Gary Amestoy, representing Richland County Economic Development Association

01:35:40 Mike Foster, representing Sisters of Charity Hospitals

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

01:37:15 Brian Olsen, Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:37:36 Rep. Ross

01:38:20 Marge Levine

01:39:33 Sen. Black

01:41:17 Rep. Nooney

01:42:02 Sen. Black

01:42:32 Rep. Sonju

01:42:56 Cathy Conover

01:43:28 Brian Olsen

Closing by Sponsor:

01:43:56 Sen. Jerry Black

HEARING ON SB 436

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:46:37 Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 436, Fee on undeveloped land authorized for fire service areas.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:48:57 Leonard Lundby, Chair Legislative Committee, Montana Volunteer Fire Association

01:51:33 Butch Weeden, Trustee, Gore Hill Volunteer Fire Department

01:52:51 Richard Van Auken, Fire Warden, Teton County

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:54:36 Rep. Hilbert

01:55:12 Sen. Gebhardt

01:55:52 Rep. Nooney

01:56:06 Sen. Gebhardt

01:58:02 Rep. Erickson

01:59:30 Sen. Gebhardt

02:02:08 Rep. Ross

02:02:21 John Semple

02:03:37 Rep. Butcher

02:04:50 Sen. Gebhardt

Closing by Sponsor:

02:08:01 Sen. Kelly Gebhardt

Discussion:

02:08:55 Jeff Martin, Legislative Services Division

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:15 A.M.

REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tah75aad.pdf](#))